

FOCUS

Missouri

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September 2, 2005

HEADLINE NEWS

State to Tap \$1 Million Federal Grant to Assist Workers Impacted by BRAC



The Missouri Department of Economic Development will use a \$1 million National Emergency Grant to assist workers and communities affected by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's recommendations.

The department's Division of Workforce Development received the grant on June 30 through the U.S. Department of Labor and has begun drafting plans on how to best use the funds to lessen the impact on Missouri families resulting from the BRAC recommendations made this week. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Responds in Wake of Katrina



In the aftermath of the devastating Hurricane Katrina, the state of Missouri is beginning to respond in several ways to provide help and resources. Through executive orders, Gov. Matt Blunt has authorized Missouri to provide military support and has waived some regulatory requirements on commercial motor vehicles bringing supplies to the devastated areas.

The Missouri Community Service Commission, an agency within DED that oversees the state's AmeriCorps program, reports that the AmeriCorps-St. Louis Safety Corps will deploy 24 corps members to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to assist with donations and volunteer management efforts this week and another 20 by the end of September.

In addition, the State Emergency Management Agency has been asked to help coordinate donations management and volunteer efforts in Mississippi. SEMA has released information about several relief organizations where individuals can [donate cash or volunteer](#); or for more information, contact the [National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster](#).

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[Blunt Announces Release of Additional Job Training](#)

High Fuel Prices a Potential Threat to Economic Growth



Retail gasoline prices in Missouri averaged \$2.49 per gallon as of Monday, August 29, but increased by 11 cents or more around the state by Thursday, September 1 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. So far, Missouri's economy has weathered the unusually high petroleum prices that impact almost all sectors of the economy.

Although, high fuel costs remain a potential threat to future economic growth in Missouri. [Read more...](#)

Number of Hispanic-Owned Firms Declines

There were 3,652 Hispanic-owned firms in Missouri in 2002, down from 4,107 in 1997, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2002 Survey of Business Owners. This was an 11.1 percent decrease in the number of Hispanic-owned firms in the state. These firms accounted for \$682 million in sales and receipts in 2002. [Read more...](#)



FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition in the Ozarks

ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition spent a week in Purdy transforming the home of Cyndy and Paul Teas, founders of Camp Barnabas, a nondenominational Christian camp for children with special needs. In the A staff bunk house, a media center and an improved ropes course for campers were also part of the makeover in the most ambitious project the show has undertaken. Joining the Extreme Makeover crew were nearly 100 companies and 2,000 volunteers who helped organize, fund and staff the project.

FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

DWD Staff Gets Trained to Use Worker Assessment Tool

DWD staff and partners throughout the state are scheduled for training on the Choices system - one of the assessment tools used in Missouri Career Centers. This database system incorporates Missouri-specific labor market information to help job seekers determine how job trends, wages, experience and education might affect their search for an occupation. Choices allows users to match their interests, skills, aptitudes, work values and work history to over 650 occupations in order to identify target occupations with specific earnings, employment outlook,

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Onshore Technologies Going Strong in Macon

The Department of Economic Development (DED) is in discussions with Onshore Technologies in Macon, Mo. to potentially establish as many as five rural technology centers, each employing between 500 and 1,000 employees within five years. The venture will lower IT costs for Missouri businesses, while at the same time minimize the risk and uncertainty of IT jobs going offshore. [Read more...](#)

State Tax Credits Assist St. Louis BioScience Startup

DED has approved \$200,000 in Development Tax Credits that will help Chlorogen, Inc. equip two

[Funds to Missouri Businesses](#)

[Blunt Says Two St. Louis Charitable Organizations to Receive Youth Opportunities Tax Credits](#)

[Department, University Sign Agreement on Missouri Film Office](#)

[Missouri Exports Half Billion Dollars Ahead of Last Year's Record Pace](#)

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Three New Enhanced Enterprise Zones in Kansas City

Three Kansas City areas received approval as Enhanced Enterprise Zones this week from DED. The first zone will cover the northland, the second zone will cover the midtown area to Richards Gebaur, and the third zone will encompass areas in Jackson County from midtown and eastward. The EEZ incentive can help create jobs and spur private investment throughout the city. [Read more...](#)

State Tax Credits for Two St. Louis Non-Profits

DED approved tax credits under separate state programs for two St. Louis area not-for-profit agencies this week. The Nurses for Newborns Foundation received \$50,000 in NAP tax credits, which are expected to leverage at least \$100,000 in donations for the organization's Bright Futures program. The Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis received approval for \$174,245 in YOP tax credits, which can leverage up to \$348,490 in donations for the administration of several crime-prevention programs. [Read more...](#)

educational levels commonly required, physical demands and work conditions. The system also helps job seekers determine what education and training may be required for certain occupations and which institutions offer those programs and/or degrees.

Kansas City Hosts NASWA Conference

More than 70 Labor Market Information directors from across the nation and Puerto Rico attended the National Association of State Workforce Agencies Labor Market Information Directors' Conference in Kansas City last week. The Division of Workforce Development hosted the event at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center.

DWD Director Roderick Nunn kicked things off at the opening session and Mike Mills, DED Deputy Director, sat in as a panelist on the Listening to Our Customers workshop. The group was impressed with Missouri's hospitality and already has another NASWA conference scheduled, this time in St. Louis, in the next couple years.

new laboratories it will use to develop a pipeline of biopharmaceutical products. The expanded capacity is expected to spur a \$6 million private investment in the company and create 25 new jobs within two years. [Read more...](#)

Tax Credit Issuance Fee Implemented

In the 2005 legislative session, SB 343 was passed and signed into law giving the Department of Economic Development the authority to collect a fee of up to 2.5 percent of the value of the issuance of most tax credit programs. The fee will take effect on all applications received and subsequently approved by DED after September 7, 2005.

All fees collected will be deposited in the Economic Development Advancement Fund. The purpose of the fund created by this legislative authority is two fold: it will be used to offset administrative costs and help the department with its efforts to market Missouri as a great place to do business. [Read more...](#)

[Commerce and Industry](#)



Questions or Comments?
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Average Midwest Home Prices Rise



The National Association of Realtors reports that the average sale price of existing homes in the Midwest in July was \$208,000, up 8.3 percent from the same month last year. The U.S. average home sale price was \$267,000 in July, up 9.9 percent from the prior year. [Read more...](#)

Johnson Controls Buys York International

Johnson Controls, Inc. will buy York International for \$3.2 billion. York, based in York, Pa., is a heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigeration equipment company. York will become part of the Controls Group of Johnson Controls, allowing the company to become a single source of facility management and control products for commercial buildings. [Read more...](#)



Indiana Initiative to Boost Insurance Industry



The Indiana Economic Development Corp.'s new Office of Insurance Development will focus on initiatives to encourage economic growth, including working with insurance companies with headquarters in Indiana or that have a physical presence in the state to encourage their growth and ensure that their needs are being met. The office will market the state's advantages to the insurance industry, identify and encourage regulatory and legislative actions that support the industry and provide economic incentives that were not previously available to the industry. [Read more...](#)

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September 9, 2005

HEADLINE NEWS

Express Scripts Chooses Missouri Site for New Headquarters



EXPRESS SCRIPTS®
Charting the Future of Pharmacy

Gov. Matt Blunt joined Express Scripts CEO George Paz on Thursday to announce the company's decision to locate its new headquarters on the campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where it will serve as a national model for job creation through an innovative public/private collaboration that is the first to utilize the Missouri Quality Jobs Act. The agreement between Express Scripts and the state maintains the current Missouri work force of more than 1,100 corporate headquarters workers and supports the creation of as many as 480 additional jobs at its new \$34 million facility over the next five years. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Career Centers Available to Katrina Evacuees

In an effort to help Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Missouri rebuild their lives, Gov. Matt Blunt has directed the Department of Economic Development to make Career Center services available to help people find gainful employment.

In response, DWD has mobilized its 40 Missouri Career Centers and is making available its Internet-based jobs service, GreatHires.org, to help those evacuees in the state begin searching for jobs in Missouri. Personal computers at these one-stop shops are available for displaced workers to apply for assistance from their home states, look for temporary work in Missouri, prepare/update resumes and access other needed services/information provided on the web. In some areas, DED will be providing laptop internet capability at evacuee centers to speed up the process. [Read more...](#)



Missouri's General Revenue Collections Rise in August



Commissioner of Administration Mike Keathley says August 2005 net general revenue collections increased 3.2 percent to \$606.5 million compared to August 2004 collections of \$587.5 million. Corporate income and corporate franchise tax collections were up 35.3 percent for the month and over 84 percent year-to-date. Sales and use tax and individual income tax collections also rose. However, the Office of Administration and Gov. Matt Blunt caution that the state's general revenue collections in the coming months may be impacted by the indirect economic

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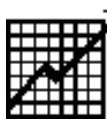
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[Unemployment Edges](#)

effects of Hurricane Katrina. [Read more...](#)



Missouri's Manufacturing Index Rebounds in August



Missouri's Purchasing Managers' Index rebounded in August, increasing 6.5 points to 58.0 and reaching its highest level since April. A score over 50 indicates expected expansion in the sector for the next three to six months. [Read more...](#)

Older Population in Missouri



Of the 5,586,114 people in Missouri in 2004, 12.8 percent were age 65 or older according to recently released data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2004 American Community Survey. Nearly one quarter of Missouri's households had at least one person age 65 or over. In addition, Missouri's older population is important to the state's children, as 50.5 percent of Missouri grandparents who lived in the same household as grandchildren in 2004 were responsible for caring for those grandchildren. [Read more...](#)



State Funds Bridge, Street and Drainage Projects

DED released \$2.2 million in grants for bridge, street or drainage projects in nine rural Missouri communities through the Community Development Block Grant Program. The grants were awarded in an annual competition, in which smaller Missouri cities and rural communities apply for CDBG funds to address critical infrastructure needs such as replacing deteriorating streets and bridges and reducing property and road damage due to poor drainage. [Read more...](#)

MCSC Thanks Groups

State Assists Dislocated Hutchens Industries Employees

The Rapid Response Team was activated this week to help employees who were laid off from Hutchens Industries, Inc. in Mansfield. The team responds to the needs of dislocated workers by providing free training and re-employment services at no cost.

Hutchens Industries, a leading manufacturer of trailer suspensions, sub-frames and a variety of steel fabrications and castings, dislocated several production workers due to a recent decline in orders. [Read more...](#)

Southeast Missouri Innovation Center Opens

The Southeast Missouri Innovation Center is officially open for business, offering business incubator space, entrepreneurial training, business development services, technical oversight and other services needed by start-up entities. The Innovation Center is a combined effort of the Missouri Research Corporation, Southeast Missouri State University, the Missouri Department of Economic Development and the Missouri Technology Corporation. [Read more...](#)

Goodyear Engineered Products Opens Facility

Down in Missouri's Metros in July

Blunt Says State Tax Credits Will Support Growth of St. Louis Area BioScience Startup Chlorogen

Blunt Announces State Aid for Delmar Blvd. Redevelopment

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for Commitment to Community Service

The Missouri Community Service Commission honors Citigroup Foundation, the Kaufmann Foundation, the Key Company, and the AFL-CIO for sponsoring and promoting the Missouri Make a Difference Day and the Missouri Community Service Commission's Governor Carnahan Service and Volunteer Award Banquet. These organizations have also generously supported the commission and several community service projects that have significantly impacted Missouri's communities.

[Read more...](#)

Seymour, Carroll Co. Designated Enhanced Enterprise Zones

DED has approved the city of Seymour's and Carroll County's applications for Enhanced Enterprise Zone status. The tax credit program that applies to these specified areas will help broaden economic development and job creation opportunities over a 25-year lifespan. The program gives a local government greater flexibility in offering tax incentives to attract businesses and create sustainable jobs in targeted industry clusters it has identified for future growth. [Read more](#) and [more...](#)

National Organization Assesses Workforce Development Programs

DWD is working with consultants from the national non-profit [Corporation for a Skilled Workforce](#) to review the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of all programs provided at Missouri Career Centers. In response to this SWOT analysis, focus groups have been held with DWD management teams, regional coordinators and managers and business representatives, as well as Local Workforce Investment Boards, Workforce Investment Directors, the Missouri Training and Employment Council (MTEC) and our partners, including Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Department of Social Services, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind.

"This analysis will ensure that everything we do is with an eye toward developing a world-class workforce that gives Missouri a competitive advantage in the 21st century," says DWD Director Roderick Nunn.



in Moberly

Goodyear Engineered Products and Exel, a global leader in supply chain logistics, recently formed a partnership that opened a new distribution center in Moberly this summer. The 285,000 square-foot facility is part of a strategy to improve order turnaround cycles and houses industrial power transmission belts and automotive belts and hoses that will be shipped worldwide. [Read more...](#)

A Look at Quality of Life in the South

The Southern Growth Policies Board has issued The Southern Community Index, a report that studies the quality of life in the South. Missouri ranks above the national average in most of the indicators analyzed in the index, which included voter and young voter turnout, women's and African-American's representation in state legislatures, access to health care, homeownership rates, rental housing affordability, violent crime and property crime rates, state investment in the arts, children in poverty, per capita income, labor force participation rate, and population with a high school degree or higher and a bachelor's degree or higher. [Read more...](#)



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\$81M Iowa Plant Expansion for Farmland Foods

Kansas City-based Farmland Foods has begun construction on an \$81 million expansion of its pork-processing plant in Dennison, Iowa. The project will expand processing capacity for smoked sausage, ham slicing and hot dogs and will add about 220 jobs upon completion in late summer 2007. [Read more...](#)

Lowe's Expands Distribution Network

Lowe's Cos. Inc. will invest \$150 million in its distribution network by building a regional distribution center in Lebanon, Ore. and expanding existing facilities in Statesville, N.C.; Valdosta, Ga.; and North Vernon, Ind. "This investment in our distribution network will enhance Lowe's ability to execute our commitment to have the right product in our stores for our customers, when they want it and to deliver those products at everyday low prices," says Mike Mabry, Lowe's executive vice president of logistics and distribution. [Read more...](#)

GE Receives Incentives for \$78M N.C. Expansion

General Electric has won nearly \$3.5 million in state incentives for a major Wilmington, NC expansion. The company plans to invest \$78 million to expand and renovate its nuclear and aircraft engine operations, which will create 200 new jobs. North Carolina has granted the company \$300,000 from the One North Carolina Fund job creation program and GE also qualified for a state Job Development Investment Grant valued at \$3.1 million over 10 years. [Read more...](#)

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HEADLINE NEWS

Missouri's Unemployment Rate Hits Four Year Low



Missouri's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in August dropped a full point from July to 4.6 percent while 15,500 new jobs were created last month. The current unemployment rate is the lowest since August 2001, the last month before the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which combined with recessionary increases already underway drove unemployment sharply higher.

Nonfarm payrolls grew substantially in August, adding 15,500 jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since January, the increase has been 53,900 jobs. Gains were noted in all industry super sectors. [Read more...](#)

Governor Blunt Receives National Biotechnology Leadership Award



Gov. Matt Blunt is the recipient of the national Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) "Award for Leadership Excellence" for his support of bioscience industry development in Missouri. Blunt received the award during the initial meeting of the Advisory Council for Plant Biotechnology in St. Louis. Created by the governor earlier this year, the council will analyze the state's current life sciences environment to determine how the state can better capitalize on the industry's potential. [Read more...](#)

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Traveling to Work in Missouri



The average commuting time of the nearly 2.7 million workers age 16 or older in Missouri was 23.3 minutes in 2004. Missourians have a slightly shorter than average commute time compared to the national average of 24.7 minutes. Contributing to Missourians' commute time may be the fact that 36 percent of Missouri workers travel outside of their county of residence for work. [Read more...](#)

Number of Black-Owned Firms in Missouri Up 22 Percent



There were 16,758 black-owned firms in Missouri in 2002, up from 13,678 in 1997, according to recently released data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2002 Survey of Business Owners. This was a 22.5 percent increase in the number of black-owned firms in the state. These firms accounted for nearly \$1.5 billion in sales and receipts in 2002. [Read more...](#)

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

State Grant Aids in Poultry Processing Plant Expansion

DED has approved a \$266,500 industrial infrastructure Community Development Block Grant for Barry County. The state grant will help fund road improvements necessary to accommodate the \$1.5 million expansion of George's Farms, which will add a feed mill and create 27 new jobs as it increases production capacity.

[Read more...](#)

State Tax Credits to Redevelop Business Site on Delmar Blvd.

Gov. Matt Blunt announced the state will provide assistance to redevelop a former Dobbs Tire and Auto Service site, preparing the location for Companion Bakery, which will expand there and create 36 new jobs within

FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

Local Employers Use "Hiring Fairs" at Career Centers

Job or hiring fairs hosted by Missouri Career Centers offer job seekers a great opportunity to meet employers who are ready to hire and schedule or hold interviews with the company's Human Resources personnel.

Two mini hiring fairs were recently hosted at the Joplin Career Center; one on July 6 for Arvest Bank and another on July 8 for Talbot Industries of Neosho. A steady flow of interested job seekers attended both events and several people were interviewed on the spot. More fairs are planned throughout the year and will be advertised in advance.

Ozark Area Community Action Corp. Held Back-

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Aquila Gets \$300M Credit Agreement for KCP&L Plant

Aquila Inc. has received \$300 million in financing to pay for a stake in the coal-fired power plant being built by Kansas City Power & Light Co. near Weston. Aquila will use \$250 million of the borrowings to buy a stake in the latan 2 plant and \$50 million to pay for environmental controls at KCP&L's latan 1 plant.

[Read more...](#)

Cerner Signs Contract for U.K. Project

Cerner Corp. has signed a 10-year contract with Fujitsu Services Ltd. as part of a \$1.6 million project in southern England to computerize medical scheduling, patient records and billing systems. The project is part of an \$11.2 billion project to computerize health system

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[Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission To Meet Next Week in Jefferson City](#)

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three years. The DED approved up to \$103,333 in Brownfield Redevelopment Program remediation tax credits for the project at 6045 Delmar Blvd. to help offset costs to cleanup hazardous substances. [Read more...](#)

St. Charles Co. Incomes Rank Among Highest in Nation

St. Charles County is among the nation's top 20 counties for highest median household incomes reported in 2004. It was the only Missouri region to make the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, ranking 19th with an adjusted medium household income of \$60,500. [Read more...](#)

to-School Program

Children of low-income families received back-to-school assistance in August at the Family Life Center in Cassville. Over 250 families were registered and each child was provided with essential supplies for school, which included a backpack provided by the local Wal-Mart store. The store donated 2,500 backpacks for this year's program. The Alliance for Business Consulting and Development and Career Center representatives were also on hand to offer information about education and employment opportunities.

information for the entire United Kingdom. [Read more...](#)

Online LLC Registration for Missouri Firms

Small business owners, entrepreneurs and startup companies can now file articles of organization for a limited liability company by completing an application on the Secretary of State's Web site. An e-mail address and credit card are required for online filing. Secretary of State Robin Carnahan said that the move is part of her office's plan to reduce government red tape and streamline business operations. [Read more...](#)



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GLOBAL NEWS

Life Science Firms Bring Tax Windfall to U.S.



By lowering the tax rate on qualifying profits brought home from overseas operations to 5.25 percent this year from 35 percent or more, federal lawmakers have created a tax windfall estimated at \$520 billion, according to Lehman Brothers' estimates. The tax break is available to all of corporate America, but big pharmaceutical companies are among the industries taking fullest advantage of the temporary tax reduction. Entrepreneurs in the life

sciences, and their financial backers, are anticipating the billions of dollars from pharmaceutical companies to make future deals happen. [Read more...](#)

Ohio Borrows P&G Marketer to Pitch State



Edward Burghard, a global marketing executive with Proctor & Gamble Co, is heading up an effort to sell Ohio as executive director of the Ohio Business Development Coalition. On loan to the coalition for three years, Burghard plans to pitch Ohio to CEOs in much the same way he would market a P&G product to consumers. [Read more...](#)

Motorcycle Startup Plans Factory in Pennsylvania



Custom motorcycle manufacturing startup, Hardbikes, plans to relocate from Ohio to Pittsburg, creating 200 jobs and triggering as many as 800 positions at other area supply chain companies. CEO Gene Kirila was hailed by Fortune Magazine in 2000 as one

of its six "heroes of manufacturing" and his goal for Hardbikes is to become the industry leader in custom motorcycle manufacturing. [Read more...](#)



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HEADLINE NEWS

Blunt Touts Missouri's Benefits to Japanese Business Leaders



Gov. Matt Blunt met with Japanese business leaders at the Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference in Cincinnati last week, delivering the message that Missouri is open for business and touting the state's excellent work force and its pro-jobs, pro-family agenda. The Midwest U.S.-Japan Association is comprised of ten member states working to incubate the growth of bilateral trade and investment between the Midwest and Japan. Blunt is pictured here meeting with Yoshizawa Yutaka, Consul General of Japan in Chicago.

Department Maps Used to Assess Economic Impacts of Katrina



The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) prepared and recently delivered maps to the U.S. Department of Labor looking at how Hurricane Katrina will affect workers, businesses and transportation systems in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The mapping project is part of MERIC's involvement in a pilot program funded by the U.S. DOL, now in its second year.

One of the [maps](#) shows that, in Louisiana and Mississippi combined, 45 percent of all employers and 46 percent of all employees fell within a 100-mile radius of Katrina as it made landfall near New Orleans. Based on MERIC's calculations, over 70,700 employers and 1.2 million employees were within this 100-mile radius. [Read more...](#)

Blunt Hosts Taiwan Trade Delegation, Signs National Trade Agreement



Gov. Matt Blunt hosted the 2005 Taiwan Agriculture Trade Goodwill Mission and signed as a witness a major trade deal this week laying the foundation for international cooperation. High ranking officials representing the Taiwanese government and major importing industries met with Blunt before signing a joint communiqué in which the Taiwan Feed Industry Association and the Taiwan Vegetable Oil Manufacturers' Association expressed their willingness to purchase approximately 300 to 400 million bushels of U.S. corn and 100 million bushels of U.S. soybeans during 2006 and 2007. This trade agreement will be beneficial to Missouri's

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agricultural industry and the state's farm families. [Read more...](#)



Occupations in Missouri: Short-Term Projections Highlights



MERIC's short-term occupation projections from 2004-2006 show strong employment growth in food and preparatory workers, waiters and waitresses, registered nurses, retail salespersons, carpenters, and customer service representatives. From 2004 to 2006, some of the fastest growing occupations are projected to be fitness trainers and instructors, self-enrichment teachers, network systems and data analysts, and computer software engineers. [Read more...](#)

Taxable Sales in Missouri Increased in 2nd Quarter



Taxable sales estimates for the 2nd quarter of 2005 from the Missouri Department of Revenue show that \$18.2 billion in taxable sales occurred in the state during the quarter, an increase of 4.5% in actual dollars from the same quarter of 2004. Adjusted for inflation and seasonality, real year-to-year growth in taxable sales during the 2nd quarter of 2005 was 1.55%, faster than the revised 1.45% in the 1st quarter of 2005. [Read more...](#)



State Tax Credits Aid St. Louis Redevelopment Projects

Gov. Matt Blunt announced Brownfield remediation tax credit applications totaling more than \$3 million have been approved for the Bee Hat Building, Ely-Walker Building and Southside National Bank redevelopment projects in St. Louis. Once rehabilitated, these facilities will provide additional restaurant, parking, office, retail, and residential living space and create more than 220 new jobs in the heart of downtown. [Read more...](#)

DWD Releases \$1.5 Million to Assist At-Risk Students

DWD awarded \$1.5 million in grants to provide innovative school-to-work program services to 900 at-risk high school seniors. The Jobs for Missouri Graduates grants are being released for the 2005-06 school year through Workforce Investment Boards in St. Louis County, St. Louis City, Southeast Region, Southwest Region, Ozark Region, South Central Region and Kansas City. [Read more...](#)

West Central Region

Premier Turbines Expands in Neosho

The Neosho Department of Economic Development recently recognized Premier Turbines, a division of Dallas Airmotive, for the expansion of their Neosho operations and for the company's commitment to the Neosho area. Since April 2003, Premier Turbines has added more than 40 jobs and invested more than \$2.75 million in the facility. [Read more...](#)

State Tax Credits Assist Rural Sourcing, Inc.

Rural Sourcing, Inc. has been approved for \$25,000

[Treasurer Sarah Steelman Expresses Concern for Displaced USGS Workers](#)

[Unemployment Rate Hits Four Year Low; 15,500 More New Jobs Created](#)

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Caldwell Co. Receives State ADA Grant

DED approved a \$56,310 grant through the CDBG program for Caldwell County. The grant will help provide equal access for all residents and visitors, regardless of their physical abilities, who need to conduct business at the Caldwell County Courthouse. The county will create a new handicap accessible parking area, construct a chair lift at the north entrance, and install a new vestibule and two new ADA accessible doors. [Read more...](#)

State Grant to Replace Water Line in Wayne Co.

DED awarded a \$263,200 emergency grant to Wayne County through its Community Development Block Grant Program. The grant will help construct a new water line under the St. Francis River, thus restoring adequate service to approximately 1,500 people in the city of Lodi and Sam A. Baker State Park. [Read more...](#)

Celebrates Older Workers

The West Central Region Career Centers are celebrating "National Employ Older Workers Week" this week. Activities for visitors are focused on recognizing the importance of older workers in the labor force, serving the job training and placement needs of people who are 55 or older and have limited financial resources, and providing information about employment and training opportunities.

Lebanon Career Center Aids Family Evacuated from New Orleans

Staff at the Missouri Career Center in Lebanon recently aided a family evacuated from the New Orleans area. Generous employers and citizens donated housing for at least six months and coordinated a shower of household gifts for the family. One family member has already been hired by Durham Company to make electrical panels for hurricane victims.

in Development Tax Credits to equip its new information technology facility in the West Technology Center in Atchison County. Rural Sourcing provides information technology services and solutions at much lower costs than metro areas. The business concept is to enable "inshoring," which keeps high quality IT jobs in rural communities, rather than losing them offshore. [Read more...](#)

Kauffman Foundation Makes a Donation to TEC

The Technology Entrepreneur Center, an incubator for start up information technology companies in downtown St. Louis, has announced receipt of a donation of \$2,500 from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. The Technology Entrepreneur Center is the premier regional incubator for information technology and communications technology start up companies. [Read more...](#)



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GLOBAL NEWS

Indiana Transforms Community into BioTown



The Indiana Department of Agriculture is converting the town of Reynolds into a renewable energy community that could have a significant impact on economic development there and across the White County region. The three-phase plan revealed last week includes using an 85 percent mix of ethanol (E85) and 20 percent mix of soydiesel in vehicles, and supplying the town's electrical and natural gas needs through livestock waste and other waste materials. Dubbed BioTown, USA by Indiana officials, Reynolds is projected to become the Hoosier State's first renewable energy community, and possibly the first in the world. [Read more...](#)

Kansas - Taiwan Trade Agreement



Kansas has signed a \$130 million trade agreement with Taiwan as part of a \$420 million agreement in which U.S. beef producers will sell 5 million to 6 million beef hides to Taiwanese tanneries in 2007. "This is an enormous opportunity for the Kansas beef industry and the entire state economy," Commerce

Secretary Howard Fricke said in a news release issued by the Kansas Department of Commerce this week. [Read more...](#)

Mexico Builds Trade Ties with China



Chinese President Hu Jintao met with Mexican President Vicente Fox last week in Mexico's capital hoping to reduce trade friction between the two countries. The two leaders signed accords to boost trade in fruit and lower some export taxes, discussed the establishment of direct flights between

China and Mexico to encourage tourism and business travel, and announced opening consular and cultural offices. [Read more...](#)

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September 30, 2005

HEADLINE NEWS

NW Missouri State University Breaks Ground for Biologics Center



Gov. Matt Blunt helped break ground Saturday on the first phase of a new \$23 million biologics center on the Northwest Missouri State University campus. The facility will consist of two connected buildings: a biotechnology business incubator that will house Ventria BioScience and laboratory and classroom space that will accommodate various bioscience and nanotechnology academic programs.

Ventria, a developer of synthetic proteins produced in transgenic rice and barley for use in pharmaceuticals and medical foods, will move its headquarters from California to the Maryville campus and become the center's first tenant. [Read more...](#)

Dramatic Drop in Unemployment Reflected in Metro Areas, Counties



Unemployment fell sharply in Missouri's metropolitan areas and counties in August when the state posted the largest percentage job increase in the country and was second in the actual number of new jobs created.

Missouri's overall unemployment rate dropped a full point from a seasonally adjusted 5.6 percent in July to 4.6 percent in August. The largest unemployment rate decrease last month among metropolitan areas was in the Missouri portion of St. Louis, where the rate fell by 1.5 points from July to 4.6. All the other metropolitan areas had decreases of at least eight-tenths of a point.

Missouri's percentage increase in employment last month was 0.6 percent -- tops in the nation -- while the 15,500 new jobs created in August in the Show Me State was second only to California's 17,200. Most metropolitan areas saw relatively little change in non-farm payroll employment in August. [Read more...](#)

DED Says Preparedness Key to Economic Stability in Time of Crisis



As part of National Preparedness Month, DED Director Greg Steinhoff recently asked the agency's research arm to study the impact of a major terrorist event in the state. An analysis conducted by the department's Missouri Economic Research and Information Center

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GLOBAL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 5, 2005

[Metals Service Center Institute \(MSCI\) Mid-America Chapter Town Hall Meeting on Manufacturing's Decline](#)

October 12-14, 2005

[Governor's Conference on Workforce Development](#)

October 22, 2005

[Make A Difference Day](#)

October 23-25, 2005

[2005 Missouri Community Betterment Conference](#)

October 23-26, 2005

[CoreNet Global](#)

November 8-10, 2005

[Missouri Economic Development Council 2005 Fall Conference: Gaining the Competitive Edge](#)

noted that the best way to gauge the economic impact of a multi-million dollar disaster was to consider \$1 million in lost sales on employment, personal income, state revenues and Gross State Product. In other words, for each \$1 million loss in sales, Missouri would stand to lose 14 jobs, \$435,000 in personal income, \$40,000 in state revenues and \$1 million in GSP.

Over a longer term, for each \$1 million in new business investment diverted away from the state as a result of the disaster, Missouri's economy would lose an additional 13 jobs, \$450,000 in personal income, \$37,800 in state revenues and \$950,000 in GSP. [Read more...](#)



Missouri Cities Offer Up Some of the Best Bargains

Missouri cities were some of the least expensive places to purchase items in the Cost of Living Survey produced by ACCRA for the 2nd quarter of 2005. Prices were collected for 57 items in 281 cities in the United States. At least one of the seven Missouri cities participating in the survey ranked 10th or better for the lowest price on 21 different items. For example, the least expensive city in the survey in which to purchase potato chips was Jefferson City at \$1.50 a bag. [Read more...](#)



Your Local Economy With LED



The Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program is an innovative MERIC/U.S. Census Bureau partnership providing detailed, timely labor market data and mapping for a rapidly changing global economy. It's especially useful for local decision makers - employers, workers, transportation agencies, education and training institutions, and economic development agencies - to make informed decisions. [Read more...](#)



AmeriCorps Members Serving in Gulf Coast Hurricane Relief Efforts

Missouri AmeriCorps members are either prepared to deploy or are already serving in parts of the Gulf region to provide disaster relief in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Team members in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana are assisting state and



Blunt Spotlights Missouri Reentry Program

Gov. Matt Blunt established by executive order this week a permanent interagency steering team for the Missouri Reentry Process, which addresses the critical issue of offenders returning to the community after release from prison. DED's involvement in the



Commercial Envelope Brings 100 Jobs to Kirksville

Kirksville city officials and K-REDI Director, Phil Tate, announced this week that Commercial Envelope Manufacturing Inc., a Deer Park, New York-based printing company will be the new tenant for the former Standard Register building in Kirksville. Tate said that he expects

ARCHIVED REPORTS

[Blunt Announces State Tax Credits for New Business That Supports IT Jobs in Rural Missouri](#)

[August 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

[July 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Dept. of Economic Development \(DED\)](#)

[State of Missouri](#)

[Missouri LocationOne](#)

[GreatHires.org](#)

[Missouri Training and Employment Council \(MTEC\)](#)

[MERIC](#)

[Missouri Community Service Commission \(MCSC\)](#)

[Missouri Arts Council](#)

[Missouri Economic Development Council \(MEDC\)](#)

[Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center](#)

[Missouri General Assembly](#)

local agencies in warehousing relief supplies, coordinating volunteers and donations, and helping link residents with services. Other local volunteers are assisting evacuees who have relocated to Missouri communities.

To make a financial contribution to voluntary organizations like AmeriCorps, call 1-800-841-8891. [Read more...](#)

Waynesville Receives Grant for Downtown Revitalization

DED approved a \$157,200 downtown revitalization grant through its Community Development Block Grant Program for the city of Waynesville. The grant will help offset costs to produce a more attractive, accessible and safe environment in the downtown business district. The city and the Waynesville Downtown! Committee are working in conjunction with local business and property owners on the project, which will focus on better sidewalks, lighting, parking and storm drainage. [Read more...](#)

process is through its Division of Work Force Development. DWD will work with Corrections to reduce recidivism by assessing an offender's strengths and barriers to determine what services and employment assistance an offender needs. DOC staff will have access to complete a Great Hires registration and set up an appointment for an offender at a local Career Center prior to his or her release. DWD will also provide local employers information about hiring these individuals. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Recipient of Federal Transportation Grant

The Federal Transit Administration awarded a \$1,675,825 grant to MoDOT to continue and expand statewide job access service provided by OATS, Ray County Transportation and the Workforce Investment Board of Southeast Missouri. The organizations are working to establish weekend service and extend routes between communities. [Read more...](#)

Commercial Envelope to create about 100 new jobs over the next three years. [Read more...](#)

St. Joseph Receives IEDC Marketing Award

The International Economic Development Council presented the overall marketing award to the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce during its annual conference this week in Chicago. Competing in the category of outstanding overall marketing by organizations serving areas with populations of 50,000-200,000, the St. Joseph Chamber was a clear standout with its "Near Perfect" Image Campaign. [Read more...](#)

Delta Offers Atlanta-Springfield Service

Delta Airlines will establish direct service to Springfield from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport beginning in December. Delta currently serves Springfield via Cincinnati and added service in July to Salt Lake City. The Springfield-Branson Regional Airport now connects to 12 U.S. cities. [Read more...](#)

[Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)



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Tuscon Research Institute Adds to Arizona's Biotech Power

A new research institute in Tuscon, Critical Path Institute (C-Path), and the FDA have signed an agreement that could help bring drugs to the market faster and more safely. C-Path is working with seven of the nation's largest pharmaceutical companies to test a new biomarker technology that could reduce

clinical trial periods from 15 to only three years. [Read more...](#)

Kentucky Loan Program to Aid Small Businesses

The Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority (KEDFA) is launching a new loan program to assist the state's small businesses. Loan amounts will vary between \$15,000 and \$100,000.



The program requires that at least one full-time job must be created within the first year of loan disbursement and maintained through the life of the loan. Loans may be used for acquisition, construction, expansion, working capital or other business expenses deemed reasonable by KEDFA. [Read more...](#)

Pennsylvania Economic Stimulus Package Praised

Pennsylvania's economic stimulus package has been deemed "the most comprehensive and flexible package of financing programs in the country" according to Stadtmauer Bailkin Biggins LLC, a New York City-based economic development incentives advisor. The year-old package was designed to revitalize jobs, boost business growth and sustain Pennsylvania communities by providing over \$2.3 billion in loans, grants and guarantees aimed at leverage \$5 billion in private investment for economic and community development projects.

[Read more...](#)